

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 FAA-00 CAB-01 DOTE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 7349

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 1082

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN BB

SUBJ: CIVAIR: PROBLEM OF US/BARBADOS ROUTE RIGHTS

REF: STATE 12119, BRIDGETOWN 1058

FROM AMBASSADOR

1. PERMSEC MINEXTAFF FORDE REQUESTED MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR
2:30 P.M. JUNE 25 TO PRESENT AIDE-MEMOIRE IN REPLY OURS OF
JUNE 13 AND TO DISCUSS SUBJECT. AT MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR,
FORDE, AND ARVHER, AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH FOLLOWS WAS PRESENTED
FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION.

"AIDE MEMOIRE

(A) THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF BARBADOS ACKNOWLEDGES
RECEIPT OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE, DATED JUNE 13, 1974, FROM THE
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONCERNING THE BARBADOS
GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO EXERCISE ITS RIGHTS TO WITHDRAW CERTAIN
AIR ROUTE RIGHTS GRANTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA UNDER THE UNDERSTANDING OF APRIL 27, 1972.

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(B) THE SUGGESTION THAT THE ABOVE MENTIONED DECISION IS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER OF THE APRIL, 1972 UNDERSTANDING DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE WELL FOUNDED. THE UNDERSTANDING EXPRESSLY PROVIDES, IN ITS PARAGRAPH 6, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS MAY WITHDRAW ANY OF THE RIGHTS GRANTED THEREIN IF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT "FAIL TO REACH A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME OF THEIR COMMENCEMENT." IN THE OPINION OF THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT, THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE OVER AN INORDINATELY LONG PERIOD OF TIME AND THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE SATISFACTORILY CONCLUDED WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT FEELS JUSTIFIED IN EXERCISING THE RIGHT, EXPRESSLY GRANTED UNDER THE UNDERSTANDING, TO WITHDRAW SOME OF THE ROUTE RIGHTS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE UNDERSTANDING.

(C) THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT WISHES TO DRAW ATTENTION TO ITS ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR AN INTERIM ROUTE - BARBADOS/ANTIGUA/BAHAMAS/WASHINGTON (DULLES) - AND TO REITERATE THAT SUCH A ROUTE IS CONSIDERABLY LESS IN VALUE THAN THE THREE (3) ROUTES PRESENTLY GRANTED TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE UNDERSTANDING. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS FACT, THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT, AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, REMAINS WILLING TO ALLOW UNITED STATES AIRLINES TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON THE THREE (3) ROUTES GRANTED IN THE APRIL, 1974 UNDERSTANDING, PROVIDED THE UNITED STATES INDICATES ITS WILLINGNESS TO GRANT TO BARBADOS THE ABOVEMENTIONED ROUTE, WITH FULL TRAFFIC RIGHTS BETWEEN THE BAHAMAS AND WASHINGTON (DULLES.)

(D) THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT HAD SELECTED THE BAHAMAS AS AN INTERMEDIATE POINT, BECAUSE IT WAS AWARE THAT NO UNITED STATES OR OTHER AIRLINES OPERATE SCHEDULED SERVICES BETWEEN THE BAHAMAS AND WASHINGTON. MOREOVER, THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO AWARE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD, IN THE RECENT PAST, GRANTED FIFTH FREEDOM TRAFFIC RIGHTS BETWEEN THE BAHAMAS AND THE UNITED STATES POINTS, TO ANOTHER CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENT. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTS, THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO APPRECIATE THE REASONS FOR THE UNITED STATES REFUSAL TO GRANT TO BARBADOS FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS BETWEEN THE BAHAMAS AND WASHINGTON (DULLES).

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(E) WITH REGARD TO THE UNITED STATES DECISION TO WITHDRAW ITS OFFER TO GRANT A ROUTE TO WASHINGTON VIA ANTIGUA, THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT WISHES TO STATE THAT THIS ACTION IS VIEWED WITH GRAVE CONCERN. THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT, AS HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR, RECOGNIZES THE UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE THAT ROUTE RIGHTS SHOULD BE EXCHANGED ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO MAKE CLEAR

WHETHER BARBADOS/UNITED STATES AIR TRANSPORT NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO PROCEED IN HARMONY WITH THIS PRINCIPLE. IF THEY ARE NOT TO SO PROCEED, THEN THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT WILL OF NECESSITY BE FORCED TO CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER STEPS IT MUST NOW TAKE IN ORDER TO SECURE ITS LEGITIMATE AND MODEST AIR TRANSPORT GOALS.

(F) THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO RESUME CONSULTATIONS ON THE GRANT OF INTERIM ROUTES, AT THE EARLIEST CONVENIENT DATE, IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE SOME INDICATION OF A WILLINGNESS TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION NOT TO GRANT TRAFFIC RIGHTS BETWEEN THE BAHAMAS AND UNITED STATES TERRITORY ON A ROUTE BETWEEN BARBADOS AND THE UNITED STATES."

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 FAA-00 CAB-01 DOTE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02

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O 252110Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 7360

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 1082

LIMDIS

2. DISCUSSIONS

A. DISCUSSIONS CONDUCTED IN INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY MANNER LASTED OVER AN HOUR. UPON READING THE AIDE-MEMOIRE QUICKLY AND NOTING THE LAST CLAUSE, I SAID THAT IT LOOKED AS THOUGH WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS HENRY KISSINGER AND ERROL BARROW TO KEEP US OFF A COLLISION COURSE WHICH WOULD ONLY INJURE BOTH GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY BARBADOS, BUT IN THE ABSENCE OF THESE GENTLEMEN IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR US TO CONSIDER WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE DONE TO SAVE THE SITUATION AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF PATIENT CONSIDERA-

TION OF THE PROBLEMS BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS HERE AND IN WASHINGTON, ETC., ETC. I DISCUSSED THE AIDE-MEMOIRE, PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH, AS DESCRIBED BELOW AND ARCHER REPLIED MENTIONING INTER ALIA THAT THE GOB VIEWS WERE ALSO THE VIEWS OF THE PRIME MINISTER WHO CONSIDERS EACH MATTER OF THIS IMPORTANCE VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE ALLOWING IT TO GO OUT.

B. STARTING WITH PARAGRAPH (B) OF THE AIDE-MEMOIRE, I SAID THAT IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT SOME OF THESE AIR TRANSPORT NEGOTIATIONS WENT ON FOR MANY YEARS AND THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN A SURPRISE TO THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS TO HAVE ROUTE RIGHTS WITHDRAWN UNILATERALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS TO BE RESUMED
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ON DECEMBER 2. ARCHER SAID THAT ACTUALLY THERE WERE NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN NEGOTIATIONS; THAT WHAT THEY HAD BEEN DISCUSSING IN WASHINGTON IN MAY WAS THE "INNER AGREEMENT" CONCERNING INTERIM ROUTES AND THAT NONE OF THE WASHINGTON NEGOTIATORS SHOULD HAVE BEEN SURPRISED BECAUSE THE BAR DEL HAD SAID IN MAY THEY WOULD HAVE TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF THE ROUTE BEING OFFERED WHEN THEY RETURNED TO BARBADOS, WHICH WAS WHAT THEY HAD IN FACT DONE. THE ROUTE WAS A "NON-GIFT,"- NOT ONE A SMALL AIRLINE COULD LIVE ON.

C. WITH REGARD TO PARAGRAPH (C) OF THE AIDE-MEMOIRE, ARCHER SUMMARIZED WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES SIDE IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER: "IN ORDER TO GRANT YOU EVEN ONE ROUTE WE MUST HAVE THREE AND IF THE BAHAMAS ARE NOT INCLUDED AND YOU DO NOT ACCEPT THE ROUTE WITHOUT THE BAHAMAS, YOU ARE NOT LIKELY TO GET EVEN ONE ROUTE." ARCHER SAID THAT EVEN WITH THE PROPOSED REMOVAL, THE SITUATION WOULD BE TWO ROUTES FOR THE U.S. AND NONE FOR BARBADOS.

D. WITH REGARD TO PARAGRAPH (D) OF THE AIDE-MEMOIRE, I POINTED OUT, AS I HAD TO FORDE EARLIER, THAT THE USG IS SIMPLY NOT ABLE TO GIVE BARBADOS A ROUTE TO U.S. POINTS VIA THE BAHAMAS OR TO GIVE ANY SUCH RIGHTS TO ANY THIRD COUNTRY. ARCHER SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT ASKING FOR RIGHTS TO POINTS IN THE U.S. THROUGH THE BAHAMAS BUT RATHER RIGHTS BETWEEN THE BAHAMAS AND WASHINGTON WHICH NO OTHER AIRLINE PRESENTLY HAS, AND WHICH ARE NOT CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY VIABLE AS THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS THEMSELVES HAD MENTIONED AT ONE POINT. I SAID THAT I SUPPOSED THE "OTHER CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENT" WAS AIR JAMAICA, BUT AS I RECALLED, THIS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN MADE A LONG TIME AGO. HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE AIR JAMAICA AGREEMENT WHICH GRANTED ROUTES THROUGH THE BAHAMAS TO THE U.S. TO DETROIT HAD BEEN CONCLUDED ABOUT 1972.

E. WITH REGARD TO PARAGRAPH (D) AND (E) OF THE AIDE-MEMOIRE, I ASKED ARCHER, IN THE ABSENCE OF HENRY AND ERROL, AND IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH NEITHER THE U.S. NOR

BARBADOS WOULD HAVE ROUTE RIGHTS BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES,
AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT IT WAS NOW THE 25TH OF JUNE AND
PRESUMABLY ON JULY 1 THE U.S. ROUTE WOULD BE WITHDRAWN, WHETHER
HE, ARCHER, HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS TO SAVE THE SITUATION. HE SAID
THAT IF THE U.S. SIDE WAS PREPARED TO LOOK AGAIN AT THE WHOLE
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MATTER OF ROUTE RIGHTS AND AGREE TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS BEFORE RPT
BEFORE THE PROPOSED DECEMBER SESSIONS RESUMED, AND IF THEY COULD
HAVE OUR ANSWER BY FRIDAY, JUN 28, PERHAPS RPT PERHAPS THE JULY 1
DEADLINE COULD BE RECONSIDERED. I AM FULLY CONVINCED THAT THIS
IS WHAT THE GOB HOPES WE WILL SUGGEST BUT THEY ARE
NOT WILLING TO PUT IT INTO THE AIDE-MEMOIRE. THE BALL IS NOW IN
THE WASHINGTON COURT.
DONOVAN

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